Marie Curie research funding

NCRI NHSE Living with and Beyond Cancer
29 April 2019

Dr Sabine Best,
Head of Research, Marie Curie
• What does Marie Curie do?

• What do we fund?

• Examples of research funded or facilitated relating to the top 10 LWBC JLA priorities
What does Marie Curie do?

• the UK’s largest charitable funder of research in palliative and end of life care
• helps people living with a (any) terminal illness and their families make the most of the time they have together by delivering:
  • expert hands-on care (9 hospices, national nursing service)
  • emotional support (volunteer helper service, helpline)
  • research (centres, open call, hospice research leads) and
  • guidance (information and support online/by phone)
What we fund

Research Grants Scheme
- £1million a year
- Distributed through our open and competitive grants scheme
- Partner organisations:
  - Chief Scientist Office Scotland
  - MND Association
  - The Brain Tumour Charity

Research Centres
- We have two centres which receive long term funding to be research centres of excellence
  - University College London
  - Cardiff University

Capacity Building
- Funding provided for PhD students at our Centres
- External funding

Marie Curie internal research activities / funding
- 6 Research Leads and Academic Fellows at Marie Curie hospices
- Small internal research grants scheme to address internal evidence need and support research active staff members (new in 2018)
The areas we invest in are guided by patients, carers, health and social care professionals

Marie Curie Research Voices Group

- Carers, friends and bereaved family members with experiences of end of life care services
- Research Voices sit on all research committees
Objectives

• Consulted patients, carers, volunteers, clinicians and other health and social care practitioners to identify their evidence uncertainties about treatment and care at the end of life

• Agreed by consensus a prioritised list

• Publicised the results of the PSP amongst the research community & funding bodies
1. ..best.. managing long-term side effects and late effects of cancer and its treatment..

- **Professor Simon Noble and Dr Jason Boland**, Cardiff University and Hull York Medical School
  Research Assessment Outcome Measures for **Malignant Bowel Obstruction** (RAMBO)

- **Professor Marie Fallon & Dr Barry Laird**, University of Edinburgh
  ENErgy: **Exercise and Nutritional Rehabilitation** in patients with advanced cancer: a single centre, randomised (1:1), open label, feasibility study of a rehabilitation programme (exercise and nutrition) versus wait list control, in patients with advanced cancer

- **Dr Sorrel Burden**, University of Manchester
  Investigating the role of parenteral nutrition in managing **inoperable bowel obstruction** in women with ovarian cancer

- **Professor Sonja McIlfatrick**, Ulster University
  Developing and testing an educational intervention for the management of **constipation** for people in hospice: a feasibility study
1. ..best.. managing long-term side effects and late effects of cancer and its treatment..

- **Professor Marie Fallon**, University of Edinburgh
  The MENAC Trial-A randomised, open-label trial of a Multimodal Intervention (Exercise, Nutrition and Anti-inflammatory Medication) plus standard care versus standard care alone to **prevent / attenuate cachexia** in advanced cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy

- **Professor Irene Higginson**, King’s College London
  A randomised placebo-controlled, double-blind, feasibility trial of mirtazapine for **breathlessness** in life-limiting and advanced illness

- **Dr Najib Rahman**, University of Oxford
  Sonographic and Biological Indicators of Malignant Pleural Effusion Efficacy (SIMPLE) - a randomised trial ((**fluid on the lung**))

- **Professor Alex Molassiotis + Dr Janelle Yorke**, University of Manchester
  Pilot feasibility randomised trial of a novel non-pharmacological intervention for the management of the **respiratory distress symptom cluster (breathlessness, cough, fatigue)** in patients with advanced lung cancer
2. ....patients and carers appropriately informed of … prognosis…

- **Professor Paddy Stone**, Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Dept, UCL Programme grant work package

- aims to understand **communication about prognosis** and end-of-life care between expert healthcare professionals (HCPs) and the relatives and friends of patients who lack capacity and are approaching the end-of-life.
3. ..care better coordinated for people with complex needs...

PeolcPSP top 28 questions related to multimorbidity

- 9 - What are the best ways to make sure there is **continuity for patients at the end of life, in terms of the staff that they have contact with**, and does this improve quality of palliative care? Would having a designated case-coordinator improve this process?

- 10 - What are the best ways to **assess and treat pain and discomfort in people at the end of life with communication and/or cognitive difficulties**, perhaps due to motor neurone disease (MND), dementia, Parkinson’s disease, brain tumour (including glioblastoma) or head and neck cancer, for example?

- 13 - What are the best ways to **facilitate communication across services and between healthcare professionals**, including effective IT systems, team meetings and remote technology?

- 24 - What are the **best care packages for patients, carers, family and staff which combine health care and social care** and take individual prognosis into consideration?
4. ….fatigue…what are the best ways to manage it?

- **Professor Paddy Stone**, Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Dept, UCL NIHR HTA funded grant

- Methylphenidate versus placebo for fatigue in advanced cancer (MePFAC)

  The MePFAC trial is a £1.4M, three and a half year, prospective, multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial
8. ....best ways to manage persistent pain...?

- **Professor Marie Fallon**, University of Edinburgh
  A phase II RCT of **topical menthol gel versus placebo** in **cancer chemotherapy-related peripheral neuropathic pain**

- **Dr Bridget Candy**, Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Dept, UCL
  The effectiveness in **alleviating pain, anxiety** and enhancing wellbeing, and the expectations and experiences of palliative care patients of **aromatherapy, massage and reflexology**: A multi-level synthesis

- **Professor Marie Fallon**, University of Edinburgh
  An exploratory study to develop and evaluate a simple bedside tool for community use to identify who is most likely to benefit from palliative radiotherapy for **cancer induced bone pain**

- **Professor Sue Latter**, University of Southampton
  A phase I-II feasibility trial of Cancer Carer Medicines Management (CCMM): an educational intervention for **carer management of pain medication in cancer patients** at end of life
Thank you

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to be put on the Marie Curie research mailing list